

TURN THE LIGHTS DOWN LOW

Written by

Ben Reiser

2019 Wisconsin Film Festival Trailer

1050 University Avenue
608-262-6578

1. EXT. CLUB 21 (NIGHTCLUB/DANCE HALL) - NIGHT

Camera starts on medium close up of 21 CLUB marquee, and slowly pans down into a wider shot of the front of club, double doors that open and close with pedestrian traffic as young couples enter and exit. We hear boogie-woogie music spilling out from inside the club as the camera comes to rest on a man in his mid-fifties standing in front of the club. He is STILTS MCGINTY, he wears a fedora and a grey suit, a cigarette dangles from his lips, he is checking the time on his watch with a slightly confused, anxious look on his face.

CUT TO

Medium close up of Stilts. He cocks his fedora towards the back of his head and scratches the back of his neck, looking around. His expression changes to one of happiness and acknowledgment as BRAINS O'SHAUNESSY enters the frame. Brains is in her mid-40s dressed with casual elegance both business-like and ready for some nightlife fun.

STILTS

Angel! There you are! Ya had me worried, I arrived in front of this den of iniquity and figured you had accidentally given me the wrong address.

BRAINS

(leaning in, stretching
up, kissing Stilts on the
lips)

Darling, I'm so sorry I'm late! No, no this is the right address. We're right where I want us to be.

STILTS

(with affection)

Really! Well that's just grand. What gives? You didn't tell me I needed to put on my dancing shoes!

BRAINS

Darling, you know you don't have any dancing shoes.

STILTS

Exactly, I don't HAVE any dancing shoes!

BRAINS

Darling, didn't you tell me you needed some inspiration for the opening of this year's Festival?

STILTS

Well, yes -

BRAINS

And didn't you tell me you were trying to figure out how to appeal to the younger generation?

STILTS

Well, yes -

BRAINS

Well here we are, this is the epicenter of the younger generation. This is where they do their thing. This is the place to be. We can either be here or we can be square.

STILTS

Is both an option?

BRAINS

(grabbing his elbow and leading him into the club)

Come on, silly!

INT. CLUB 21 - NIGHT

Inside the club the camera captures a wide view of a bandstand with an eight piece swing band starting up the intro to TURN THE LIGHTS DOWN LOW, a boogie woogie pop standard. Young couples on the dance floor move to the sides of the room as an ANDREWS SISTERS-like trio of female singers walk out from behind the bandstand and begin to sing. As they sing they perform choreographed moves that are a charming mixture of dance and pantomime. As the lead singer starts, she is joined at frequent intervals with harmony parts from her two companions.

LEAD SINGER

(singing)

It's been a long cold winter full of ice and snow

Now the spring has come and it's time to go

Back to the movies turn the lights down low

(MORE)

LEAD SINGER (CONT'D)

Hush Hush honey and we'll start the
show

Turn the lights down low (4x)

As the chorus ends, TWO MALE DANCERS arrive at the center of the dance floor and perform a spectacular tap infused dance during the instrumental break of the song. As the break ends, the singers come back onto the center of the dance floor for a repeat of the chorus and end of song.

SINGERS

Turn the lights down low (4x)

CUT TO:

INT. CLUB 21 A MOMENT LATER

Medium shot of Stilts and Brains. They are wide-eyed, Stilts cigarette dangles from his gaping mouth. They turn to look at each other, and then turn their heads back towards the spectacle they've just witnessed.

STILTS

Yeah, that'll do.

End.

2019 WFF Trailer Alternate Endings

1. "I could see us running with *that* for years!"
2. "Did she say something about spring?"
3. "Huh."
4. "Did you bring a contract, a pen, anything?"
5. "Catchy little number."
6. "Well wasn't that swell?"
7. Stilts stares, eyes agog, mouth wide open. Brains tries to get his attention, waves her hand in front of his face, to no avail.
8. "Can we get us one of those?"
9. "Well I'll be."
10. "Well that settles it."

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